FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 MARCH 1987

Iran

Khomeyni Address — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni denied the existence of a power struggle in Iran in a 14 March speech to government officials carried on Tehran radio. Emphasizing that "everyone around us is making efforts to destroy us from within and crush us from within," he warned against creating discord at any level because the opposition is "looking for something to exaggerate, so as to pit us one against another, from within." Khomeyni stressed that "our religious duty obliges us to prevent it" even if it means sacrificing one person or a group for the benefit of the nation. He urged all strata to support the government and all government and military organs to support each other.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi commented on Khomeyni's speech at the 15 March Majlis session, declaring that "we feel ashamed being faced with the assessments made by the imam of the nation of the government's activities," Tehran radio reported. The imam's words on avoiding discord must be heeded because despite the "despondency" of the enemies regarding a foreign invasion, "they could harm the revolution by this means," Musavi stressed.

Iran and Terry Waite — Iran has called on its officials and friends in Lebanon to persist in finding Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani disclosed in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury broadcast by Tehran radio 16 March. He thanked the Archbishop for a letter in which the latter expressed readiness to contact Lebanese Christians in an attempt to trace four Iranians who were kidnapped in July 1983, adding that this initiative is a "bright light" that gives credibility to the church and Christianity. The radio also broadcast the Archbishop's letter, which stressed Waite's independence from politics and his faith and respect for Islam, and confirmed the Archbishop's intention of contacting the Lebanese Christians to trace an Iranian captured by Phalangist militiamen.

Comment on Tower Commission — The Tower Commission report on Robert McFarlane's talks in Tehran "gives a true account in certain parts" but in other parts it reads more like a "novel," Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated in a 16 March interview reported by Tehran radio. Earlier, in a Friday sermon reported by IRNA, Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared the main aim of the Tower report was to "mar" Iranian-Soviet relations and precipitate a war with the USSR. When U.S. officials came to Iran they said 36 Soviet Army divisions are poised on the southern border ready to invade Iran and presented a map showing the routes the USSR will use to infiltrate "which we will show to the world," Hashemi-Rafsanjani disclosed

Soviet Delegation's Visit — A Soviet Foreign Ministry delegation led by Lev Isaakovich Mendelevich departed 15 March, concluding a 4-day visit, IRNA announced. Mendelevich pointed out that the USSR is "in favor of a powerful and independent Iran." He praised the "close and independent" bilateral ties, and expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit.

Purchase of U.S. Computers — IRNA issued an official denial that it concluded a deal to buy computers from U.S. firms. An official insisted the "ballyhoo" on the sale resulted from a "difference of interest" of U.S. power factions.

Velayati in Sudan — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held talks with Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in Khartoum 15 March, Tehran radio reported, noting that they discussed bilateral relations and international issues. Velayati, who arrived the previous day from Bulgaria and Greece, held a news conference in which he praised "strong and solid" bilateral ties, SUNA noted.

Lebanon

French Hostage — Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah stressed in a 15 March speech reported by AFP that it is "forbidden to kidnap or kill an innocent person because one has a score to settle with a head of state." Fadlallah, the "spiritual" leader of Hizballah, was commenting on repeated threats by the "Organization of Revolutionary Justice" (ORJ) to kill French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin because of the French Government's refusal to change its policies on terrorists and dealings with Iraq. The ORJ warned in a 14 March statement that it would pass a death sentence on Normandin within 48 hours, AFP noted.

Security — A man involved in an attempt to assassinate Lebanese Forces (LF) commander Samir Ja'ja' stated that the plot was supervised by the Syrians, masterminded by a brother-in-law of former LF leader Elie Hubayqah, and assisted by former President Sulayman Franjiyah's grandson, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Speaking at a news conference in the Christian sector, the man said he had informed the East Beirut authorities of the plan because his conscience had prevented him from carrying it out.

On the Muslim side, Beirut radio reported that Amal and Palestinian representatives reached a new cease-fire in the camps war over the weekend, noting this was agreed at a meeting attended by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon. Kan'an had earlier reviewed the security situation in a statement to the UAE's *Al-Khalij*, asserting that Beirut Airport is now safe enough for Samir Ja'ja' to use if he wishes. He also spoke of an "inclination" in East Beirut toward deploying the Lebanese Army on the contact lines and withdrawing LF militias.

As for southern Lebanon, Radio Free Lebanon reported that Israel has issued a warning to the Lebanese Government through UNIFIL concerning the arrival of large numbers of gunmen in

the south following the Syrian deployment in West Beirut. Israel reportedly warned that it would carry out "scorched earth" operations if the gunmen mount attacks in the security strip.

PLO

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat accused Syria of preparing a "hellish scheme" to attack the Palestinians in Lebanon, "annihilate" the refugee camps, and expel them from the country, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported 14 March. He also asserted that Syria "has declared war on the Palestinian people and the PLO outside of Lebanon."

Tunisia

Following a visit by Libya's Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, President Habib Bourguiba met with ministers on 13 March to discuss the visit and bilateral relations and issued his "instructions" for their continued development, Tunis radio reported.

The Tunisian press was "unanimous" in welcoming renewed ties with Libya, KUNA pointed out citing several papers. One weekly maintained, however, that "it is now up to the Libyans to show their good intentions," KUNA added.

Libya

Protest to Saudi Arabia — The Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the Saudi charge 14 March to protest the visit to the Kingdom by General William Crowe, head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the presentation of a medal to him, Tripoli radio announced.

YAR, Sudanese Visitors — YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Salih, arrived in Surt 15 March for talks on bilateral relations and Arab unity, Sanaa radio reported. Al-Salih held two closed meetings with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the same day, JANA noted. The Libyan leader also received Fadallah Nasr Burmah, visiting Sudanese minister of state for defense affairs, who handed him a message from Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Tripoli television reported 13 March.

Chadian Conflict

Chadian National Armed Forces killed 112 Libyans and took 24 prisoner in an attack on the Mogoro-bir Sora road, the Chadian Government claimed in a 13 March communique carried by Ndjamena radio. Libyan forces continued bombing operations, however, and another communique carried by the radio reported one aircraft was downed over Fada 14 March.

According to a high-ranking official quoted by 14 March Khartoum *Al-Siyasah*, a second round of Chadian-Libyan talks will be held within the next 2 weeks, SUNA reported. The paper also claimed that negotiations concluded 12 March "went well."

Egypt

Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah turned down an invitation to visit Israel amd confer with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other officials, MENA disclosed citing the Paris magazine *Al-Mustaqbal*.

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Ershad Opens Asian 'Group of 77' Meeting in Dhaka

BK141144 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] President Ershad has called for concerted efforts to remove the present global economic crisis. He was inaugurating the 3-day sixth Asian ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 in Dhaka this morning. The president said a rational, equitable, and peaceful world will be possible only through a balanced and sustained growth and development in both developed and developing countries. He said the present meeting will surely make a significant contribution to the preparatory process of the forthcoming seventh session of the UNCTAD. The UNCTAD conference is expected to launch a comprehensive program for world economic recovery. The president expressed his confidence that the Dhaka meeting will further strengthen the unity the solidarity of the Asian group and consequently that of the Group of 77 which is vitally needed at this critical hour.

The president emphasized the need for North-South dialogue and said a determined political will is urgently needed to initiate common international actions to redress the existing global economic problems. He stressed that a fundamental rethinking of many interrelated issues of development, trade, and finance is required. The global round of negotiations is also needed to establish a New International Economic Order. In this connection, the president referred to the fall in the volume of exports from the developing countries due to the slackening of demand and proliferating protectionism. He listed the international debt crisis, high interest rates, transfer of financial resources to the developed countries, and fall in the prices of primary commodities as the main causes of the economic deficiencies in the developing and least developed countries.

Our representative says the inaugural session was also addressed by the UNCTAD secretary general, Mr Kenneth Dadzie, and the chairman of the fifth Asian ministerial meeting and leader of the Bangladesh delegation, Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed. Ministers and delegates from 32 Asian countries are participating at the meeting.

Declaration Drafted; Unanimity Shown

BK160616 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The sixth Asian ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 is concluding in Dhaka today. The draft declaration called the Dhaka Declaration prepared at the senior officials meeting will be presented before the plenary session of the meeting today for its approval and adoption. A statement on economic cooperation among developing countries and a report containing other recommendations made by the senior officials will also be presented.

Meanwhile, the ministerial meeting on its 2d day yesterday continued with general debate and held fruitful discussions. Briefing newsmen after the day's session was over, the president of the meeting, deputy prime minister, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, said unanimity was reflected in speeches made by the delegates on the lawlessness of the world economic crisis and interdependence of the countries.

Yesterday's (?two) sessions were addressed by 16 heads of delegations and they called for multilateral cooperation aimed at revitalizing the [word indistinct] development and trade. The delegates hoped that the coming UN Conference on Trade and Development — UNCTAD —in Geneva will launch an action oriented program for balanced economic recovery and growth in the developing nations. They also discussed the problems of the least developed countries and suggested steps to solve them in order to prepare a better world for future generations. The bureau of the ministerial meeting comprising the president, two vice presidents, and (?counsel) general also held a session yesterday and discussed organizational matters such as [word indistinct] and some outstanding issues. Our representative adds the Dhaka Declaration being adopted by the Asian ministers will be harmonized with the reports of the Latin American and African Groups of 77 in Havana next month. The harmonized reports and recommendationse will be placed before 7th UNCTAD conference in Geneva in July for adoption and implementation.

Three Ministerial Appointments Approved
LD150942 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul, March 14, BAKHTAR — The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA has approved the proposals of the Council of Ministers on the appointment of Gholam Faruq Kobakiwal as minister of agriculture and land reform; Dr Sher Bahadur as minister of public health; and Bashir Avvad Roygar as president of the State Committee of Radio-TV and Cinematography of the DRA today.

Najibullah Addresses Village Party Organizations
LD132252 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Speech by Comrade Najib, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, at a nationwide seminar of secretaries of village party organizations, delivered on 13 March in Kabul city — recorded]

[Excerpts] Most dear comrades, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo attaches great value to the first seminar of secretaries of the primary party organizations of the villages. [Word indistinct] this task reflects the growth and consolidation of the party authority in the villages.

The fact that you are placed in the vanguard of the revolutionary trench means you are representing those party organizations which enjoy great importance and play an important role in strengthening and consolidating (?relations) with the masses and (?achieve) peace in the land of Afghanistan.

I express my heartfelt gratitude for your participation in this meeting.

Large-scale combat operations have stopped throughout the country. A relative peace and calm has been restored; the party and government authority has been enhanced. The party and the DRA Government [words indistinct] have taken the political initiative and will preserve it. A number of bandits have been attracted to the DRA, and most [word indistinct] of the oppositions have been separated from the large counterrevolutionary forces. A noticeable section of the opposition forces who have not yet joined the national sovereignty, are waiting. This assists the sovereignty of the national [word indistinct].

A number of the opposition groups are cooperating with the DRA Government and with the PDPA. Talks are underway between the DRA Government and with various groups and political parties concerning national reconciliation and cooperation that will assist the normalization of the situation in the country.

The policy of national reconciliation creates the possibility for broader circles, for representatives of the various strata social groups to participate in the administration of the country's affairs. This will assist in broadening the social pillars of national sovereignty.

By continuing the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, favorable conditions are being prepared for an increase in the number of returnees from abroad. The returnees are cooperating with the government. The policy of national reconciliation is creating broad possibilities for spiritual representatives to take part in the social and political life of the country and this will attract broad masses to the revolutionary government.

The restoration of relative peace in the country is permitting the struggle against illiteracy to intensify and in relation to this, the level of the political and social activities of the broad masses will rise.

By implementing national reconciliation, conditions are being created for a positive solution to the issues surrounding Afghanistan by political means, in particular relations with its neighbors.

The political [word indistinct] of the DRA at the international level will help solve the issues surrounding Afghanistan as a result of [word indistinct] efforts.

In the new circumstances arising from the PDPA's implementation of national reconciliation, improving the quality of organizational and political work in the villages has become decisive. Without your active participation this will be impossible. For this reason the convocation of this session of secretaries of the primary party organizations in the villages in Kabul city is essential. Determining the date of the session [words indistinct].

Today a great campaign is underway among the peasants to strengthen the position of the party and government. The convocation of this seminar is part of this campaign.

I would like to consult with you about some of these issues and consider your views and suggestions concerning a fresh initiative for peace in the villages.

In our agricultural country, solving the land and peasantry issue are major objectives of the national and democratic revolution forming the basis of the socioeconomic structure. Without a solution to these issues, attracting peasants to the national authority and the possibility of resolving other formidable issues — put before our people after a long waiting period and [words indistinct] — peace and calm will be impossible. Therefore, the problems of the village take on the form of nationwide problems and the national problem of all toiling people of Afghanistan.

Solving these problems is the duty of the government and people and requires all-round [words indistinct]. Organizational measures will succeed if they are linked with and conform to organic, ideological, and socioeconomic measures.

This fundamental issue will consolidate the confidence of the peasants in the revolutionary sovereignty and strengthen the growth of the villages themselves.

The (?method) of implementation of and realistic policy of the PDPA in the villages requires profound theoretical perception and all-round completion of practical activities. [passage omitted on postrevolution changes in the villages]

The revolutionaries must learn how to maintain normal relations with the middle class peasants, and how to attract their con-

fidence. We cannot just wait and see when the middle class landowners will come to our side. But, if we follow a correct policy they will no longer doubt us and come over to our side.

We should not forget that most of today's problems in Afghanistan's villages, such as backwardness and poverty, are deep-rooted and have existed for many decades without being solved by the ruling circles. They were striving to deprive the villages and their inhabitants of political, economic, social, and cultural activities. The party and revolutionary sovereignty failed to consider the complexity of their work among the peasants in the villages from the very beginning of revolution's victory. The basic forces were gathered in the cities. Political, social, military, economic, ideological, and cultural measures were not geared to strengthening the social basis of the revolution in the villages. The beginning of the implementation of land reform was too hasty. It failed to immediately attract the vast masses of the peasants around the party and around the revolutionary sovereignty. The enemies of revolution exaggerated our mistakes and used them to deceive the peasants. [passage omitted on national reconciliation being in the interest of the peasants]

The party has determined a new method of solving the land issue in the interest of all peasants. The path of national reconciliation is passing and should pass through each village and every peasant's home. If the peasants take the destiny of reconciliation into their hands, then national reconciliation will find its way to the long-suffering land of the Afghans and to each Afghan family. The implementation of party policy in the villages calls for the correct alignment of party forces and of their comprehensive activities. The most vital issues are the growth of the peasantry within the party ranks and the strength of party organizations in the villages. An increase in the party profile among the peasants will improve the structural quality of party ranks and will expand and consolidate the party links with the peasantry.

Today there are 35,000 peasants in the ranks of the PDPA. Only during the last 9 months of the current year, more than 7,000 peasants have been accepted in the PDPA.

The party organizations of the provinces of Badakhshan, Herat, Nangarhar, Jowzjan, Fariab, Takhar, Baghlan, Konduz, and Badghis are working under better and more favorable conditions. The number of peasants in each of these organizations is between 100 and 1,500. The number of peasants in the party ranks is low in the other provinces where the primary party organizations have limited memberships. The creation and expansion of the network of primary party organizations in the villages are two of the most basic measures required to expand and consolidate the party status and revolutionary sovereignty in the village. At present, in the villages under the control of revolutionary sovereignty around 1,000 primary organizations have been created and their activities cover more than 2,000 villages. During the current year more than 250 primary village organizations have been established which cover more than 560 villages. The role of the primary village party organizations has been consistently promoted. These organizations should truly be transformed into party bastions aimed at implementing national reconciliation in the villages.

The PDPA Central Committee attaches great importance to the role of the primary party organizations. [passage omitted on names of those secretaries of the primary organisations who have been accepted into the Central Committee]

A large number of the secretaries in primary village party organizations are members of party provincial committees and of their executive bureaus. Special courses to teach the secretaries of primary village party organizations have been created in the Social Science Institute of the PDPA Central Committee. Most of the secretaries of the primary village party organizations have been trained at party schools inside and outside the country. All these measures should enhance the role of the primary party organizations. The role of the secretaries of primary party organizations will also be promoted in the future, taking into account the effective initiative of the primary party organizations and their fruitful activities in implementing reconciliation.

The important issue is that the primary party organizations in the villages should work among the people. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the traditions of the villages' inhabitants. At present, the dispatching of party members to work in the villages is continuing. An example such as that of the Balkh party provincial committee should be set. There, they have sent party cadres to 30 villages from the city of Mazar-e Sharif.

The Organization Department of the Party Central Committee is currently busy [word indistinct] those party cadres who deserted the villages during the years of the revolution for one reason or another, who moved to Kabul city and to provincial centers. We decided to send them back to the villages for a time. This work will start in March 1988. The work of some party primary organizations in the villages in Jowzjan, Nangarhar, and Konduz are the best examples. These organizations are carrying out great work in connection with establishing agricultural cooperatives and mobilizing and organizing the peasants. [passage omitted describing an agricultural cooperative in Jowzjan]

The party organizations are assisting, through cooperatives, in advancing the cultivation and harvesting of crops, organizing voluntary work in the villages, and cleaning and constructing streams and canals. The primary party organization in the village of Parastan in Badghis, together with the Council of Representatives of the people of the village, repaired a secondary school, which has a capacity of 120 students, provided teachers for it, and also excavated a well on the school campus.

Telephones have been connected in the offices of the party organizations and councils of people's representatives. Extra measures have been taken in connection with [word indistinct] the active security posts. It has carried out many tasks concerning call-up and conscription to the Armed Forces. Over the last 20 months, 150 persons from the village of Parastan and its surroundings have joined the Army, the Sarandoy [militia], and the Ministry of State Security. [passage omitted on activities of other primary village party organizations in Jowzjan and Helmand]

Each village needs veterinarians, agricultural experts, agronomists, agricultural engineers, and other professional cadres in the sphere of agriculture. These cadres are the best assistance for each peasant family in improving the utilization of land and

increasing yield. They need support from the primary village party organizations to effectively accomplish their work. On the one hand, the number of experts in agricultural affairs is limited, and on the other hand those who are ready to go to the villages have not been fully mobilized.

Many organizations were established in the villages during the years of revolution, such as councils of peasants, peasants' committees, committees for water use, agricultural cooperatives, and consumer and handicraft cooperatives. But most of them are working poorly. They do not ensure the participation of people in resolving village problems.

As for political and training work in the village, under conditions of national reconciliation, political, training and propaganda work have special importance. The statement of the Revolutionary Council on national reconciliation and its other documents related to the aims and principles of national reconciliation should be explained to the village people. We should increase the number of propagandists and [word indistinct] brigades, who have the ability to work among small groups of people, who are able to travel from one village to another, and who now that national reconciliation begins from the villages. It should be mentioned, however, that most of the propagandists are carrying out formulative work in the villages without previous preparation and without any specific guidance. The propagandists should be armed with the principles of the theory and knowledge of revolution and should become familiar with the forms and methods of specific political and propaganda work among peasants in villages.

The Department of Propaganda and Culture of the PDPA Central Committee should urgently solve the issue of providing assistance toward propaganda papers, posters, and photo exhibitions.

The experience of the different primary party organizations shows and will continue to show that when explanations are given in a simple and ordinary manner then the need for revolutionary transformation will not contradict the Islamic tradition or the interest of the peasants. This work will bring good results. The primary village party organizations and party members who work in the villages should use this form of work extensively.

One of the important directions of work in the primary village party organizations is the elimination of illiteracy among the people of the villages. The primary village party organizations should prepare the ground for making the people of the villages literate.

The publication of a special journal for the villages and peasants should be started. I mean changing the *Daily Deqan* and [word indistinct] of the village in the daily *Haqeqat-e Enqelab-e Sawr*. I will talk to the editor in chief of these publications soon. It would have been useful if the Department of Propaganda and Culture of the PDPA Central Committee had prepared specific guidance to advance political work and political training for the primary party organizations in the villages. I think we will issue this instruction tomorrow.

As for armed forces in the villages: Some time ago a new conscription law was passed. People in general supported this law. The main duty of the primary village party organization is to explain the conscription law and deliver the content of the law to each compatriot in the remotest parts of the villages. The second duty is to intensify conscription among youths who [words indistinct]. The primary village party organizations should have accurate statistics of those to be called-up and should organize their work with the people who are to be called-up in accordance with the plan. None of these people should escape from call-up and conscription. The primary party organizations should organize their work in such a manner that they report to the Army voluntarily. The solution of this issue in the villages is entrusted to the primary village party organizations. Those who have been called up should be sent to the Armed Forces in the traditional way and meetings should be held for those who receive discharge cards. The work should be organized in a particular way with those who are to be discharged and they should be approached with respect in the villages. It is very important to promote the role and responsibilities of primary party organizations in the villages in defense of the gains of the April Revolution, to strengthen the Armed Forces, and to defend and ensure the security of the villages.

In conclusion, your major duties are the transformation of the villages into strong fortresses of the party; the building of a new life in the country; and the achievement of peace in the long-suffering land of the Afghans for the prosperity and welfare of each. Thank you. [applause]

Karachi: Mujahidin Attack Qandahar Airport
BK150310 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Mujahidin carried out rocket attacks on Qandahar airport. They claimed that they fired about 300 rockets at many planes, helicopters, and a fuel depot. Nine helicopters, five planes, oil and explosives dumps, and a communications center were either destroyed or damaged.

Romania's President Continues Dhaka Visit

4 Separate Agreements Signed

BK131353 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] In Dhaka, Bangladesh and Romania today signed four separate agreements on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation; shipping; avoidance of double taxation; and investment protection.

The long-term agreement on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and avoidance of double taxation agreement was signed by Finance Minister M. Syeduzzaman and Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Dimitrie Ancuta on behalf of their respective countries. Investment protection agreement was signed by Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed and the Romanian deputy prime minister on behalf of their respective sides, while the shipping agreement was signed by Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed and the Romanian deputy prime minister.

The agreements were signed immediately after the conclusion of over 2 and 1/2 hour-long formal, official talks at Banga Bhavan between Bangladesh and the Romanian side led by President Ershad and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. In the talks, the Bangladesh president was assisted by Deputy Prime Ministers Moudud Ahmed and Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, Information Minister Anwar Zahid, Finance Minister M. Syeduzzaman and high officials. The Romanian president was aided by his wife, Elena Ceausescu, Deputy Prime Minister Dimitrie Ancuta, Foreign Minister Ioan Totu, Adviser to the president Constantine Mitea and Deputy Minister (Vitolino).

Our diplomatic representative says the two leaders also discussed global situation and international economic issues.

Ceausescu Speaks at Civic Reception

BK131611 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Vice President Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam called on Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu at the state guest house this morning. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Disarmament and world peace also came up for discussion.

In the afternoon, a civic reception was accorded to the visiting Romanian president, Mr Ceausescu, and Madam Ceausescu at the North Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament]. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Ceausescu called for urgent negotiations between the developing and developed nations for evolving a New International Economic Order. Referring to his talks with President Ershad, he said the two countries have renewed their pledge to strengthen bilateral cooperation to the mutual benefit of the two people. He assured Bangladesh of continued cooperation in various fields. The distinguished guest said he and members of his entourage had been touched by the warm hospitality extended to them and they will long cherish it in their memories.

Earlier, in his address of welcome, the DMC [Dhaka Municipal Corporation] administrator, Mr M.A. Manik, expressed the hope that the existing cordial relations and friendly ties between Bangladesh and Romania will be further strengthened following this visit of President Ceausescu and Madam Elena Ceausescu. Later, the DMC administrator presented to the Romanian president a golden key on behalf of the citizens of Dhaka and Mrs Manik presented a Jamdani sari to madam Elena. Accepting the key the Romanian president described it as the key of friendship and peace. The vice president, Justice Nurul Islam; the speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, Mr Shamsud Huda Chowdhury; ministers; members of Parliament; diplomats; high civil and miltiary officials; and elite of the city were among those present.

Talks With Foreign Minister

BK131724 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, called on the visiting Romanian president, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, at the state guest house, Sugandha. The Romanian foreign minister, Mr Ioan Totu, was also present on the occasion. The foreign minister discussed matters of mutual interest with the Romanian president.

Departs Dhaka 14 Mar

BK140736 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The Romanian president, Nicolae Ceausescu, and Madame Elena Ceausescu left Dhaka this morning for Rangoon after ending a 3-day state visit to Bangladesh. President Ershad and Begum Raushan Ershad bade farewell to the Romanian president and Madame Elena Ceausescu at the Zia International Airport. Twenty-one-gun salute boomed marking the departure of the honored guest. President Ceausescu was also presented a guard of honor by honor guards drawn from three services. Among others present at the airport to bid farewell to the Romanian president were Vice President A. K. M. Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, members of the cabinet, diplomats, and high civil and military officials. Chiefs of the three services, Lieutenant General Atiqur Rahman, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud were also present at the airport on the occasion.

AFP--Police Clash With Muslim Demonstrators

BK131534 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Dhaka, March 13 (AFP) — Riot police baton-charged and used teargas against some 5,000 brick-throwing Muslim demonstrators here Friday, injuring about 100 people, police and eyewitnesses said. The demonstrators were calling for the introduction of an Islamic constitution in Bangladesh.

Police said some arrests were made in the clash, which came after the protesters tried to stage a march and rally following weekly prayers at Dhaka's Baitul Mukarram Mosque. They said the protesters, led by several noted religious leaders, showered them

with bricks when police tried to prevent them from holding a rally at a traffic island in the Motijheel area of the capital. But an organiser said that the demonstration was a peaceful protest and that the police use of batons and teargas was uncalled-for.

The police did not say how many people had been arrested, but eyewitnesses said about half a dozen of the demonstrators were rounded up and about 100 people were injured. Police said reinforcements had been sent to the area and the situation was under control.

A spokesman at Dhaka's main casualty hospital said about 10 people had been treated at the hospital. One of them was hospitalised and the others left after receiving first aid.

About 85 per cent of Bangladesh's 110 million population are Muslim.

Minister on 'Mild' Baton Charge

BK141650 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1430 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The parliament today continued discussion on the motion of thanks to the president for his address to the House. [passage omitted]

Earlier, the day's work began with a statement of Deputy Prime Minister M.A. Matin on an incident which took place yesterday. He said that the Dhaka metropolitan police have banned processions and the use of microphones in the streets of the city. Police permission is required for the holding of any meeting or using a microphone. He said the marchers yesterday proceeded to the Matijhil industrial area in defiance of the ban.

Professor M.A. Matin said that at one stage they started throwing stones at the police; a number of policemen were injured. Then the police in self defense and to protect national property fired teargas shells and resorted to a mild baton charge to disperse the unruly mob. Seventeen people were injured and 200 batons were seized from the marchers.

The deputy prime minister described as false press reports related to the entry of policemen into Baitul Mokarram [religious and social center]. [passage omitted on other proceedings in parliament]

Gandhi Says No Compromise on Defense Expenditure

BK130945 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister has declared that there will be no compromise on defense expenditure needed to protect the country's political and economic independence. Replying to the general discussion on the budget for 1987-88 in the Lok Sabha today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said this is particularly so at a time when we have been pressurized by anti-Indian forces around us. He said India is under tremendous pressure because it is standing on its own feet and is independent in its policies. He regretted that at times we laid too much emphasis on only economic, monetary, or financial benefits. But there is much more to nation building than these things. The prime minister asserted that we cannot allow industrialists' lobbies to make us deviate from building the defense of the country.

During the discussion, some opposition members have suggested that the defense expenditure should be curtailed and money thus saved utilized for development. The prime minister refuted the opposition criticism that the budget is directionless. He described the thrust of the budget as antipoverty and progrowth whose direction is egalitarian and progressive. He said the philosophy of the budget is very clear: It benefits the poor and taxes the rich who can pay. Relief in taxes worth 595 crore rupees has been given in areas affecting the poor and middle classes. Taxes have been levied in nonessential and luxury sectors. He assured the members that the deficit in the budget will not lead to inflationary pressure. Prices of essential commodities are generally under control, and he said there is no real cause for worry.

After the prime minister's reply, the House passed demands of grants on account in respect of the budget for 1987-88 as well as supplementary demands for grants in general for 1986-87. The House also voted demands for excess grants for 1984-85 under relevant appropriation bill.

Letter Revealing Gandhi-Singh Rift Published

Opposition Stages Walkout

BK140143 Hong Kong AFP in English 0100 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] New Delhi, March 13 (AFP) — Almost the entire opposition walked out of the Indian Parliament's Lower House Friday in a protest related to reports of a rift between President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Opposition members in the Upper House also tried to raise the issue after a newspaper published a letter it said had been written by Mr Singh to Mr Gandhi, accusing the premier of lying to Parliament about their relationship.

In the Lok Sabha, or Lower House, the walkout came after the speaker disalllowed opposition pleas for discussion on the letter, which questioned Mr Gandhi's insistence that he had been briefing the president on national issues.

The speaker, Balram Jakhar, said he did not question the authenticity of the published letter, but said he would not allow a discussion on the president, a ceremonial head of state under India's Constitution.

Mr Gandhi had denied in Parliament last month reports that his government was sidelining the president on national issues. He said Mr Singh was being informed on all issues of importance and denied that there was a rift.

In Rajya Sabha, or Upper House, Chairman Ramaswamy Venkataraman, the Indian vice president, assured members that he would look into "all aspects" arising from the letter.

EXPRESS Owner's Home 'Raided'

BK140655 Hong Kong AFP in English 0604 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 14 (AFP) — Federal detectives raided a newspaper owner's house here after his daily published a letter it said was by President Zail Singh accusing Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of lying to Parliament about their relationship.

The raid on *Indian Express* owner Ram Nath Goenka's house Friday coincided with the arrest in Madras of his legal adviser S. Gurumurthy, the newspaper's editor, Suman Dubey, told *Agence France-Presse* here Saturday. Police raided Mr Gurumurthy's offices and home earlier Friday, just hours after the English-language daily published on its front page a two-page letter it said President Zail Singh had written to Mr Gandhi.

The newspaper quoted the letter as saying Mr Gandhi had sidelined the president, India's first Sikh head of state, in direct contravention of the Constitution and convention. "We are trying to find out the official reason for the raid, but we believe it was because we published this letter," Mr Dubey said.

Scores of policemen surrounded Mr Goenka's house in a fashionable New Delhi neighborhood ahead of Friday night's raid by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The search continued till late, reports said. CBI officials were not immediately available for comment. [passage omitted]

Mr Gandhi told Parliament on March 2 and 3 that he had met Mr. Singh on many occasions to inform him about important developments and accused the opposition of politicising the office of president. But the letter published in the *Express* accused Mr Gandhi of lying to Parliament, saying that the facts were "somewhat at variance with what has been stated by you." The publication of the letter is seen here as having brought the reportedly strained relations between the two men firmly out into the open.

Inquiry Ordered To Discover 'Leak'

BK141059 Hong Kong AFP in English 1037 GMT 14 Mar 87

[By Anil Penna]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 14 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi found himself in the eye of a political storm Saturday after President Zail Singh charged him with lying to Parliament

on their controversial relationship, in a letter which has sparked a political crisis.

The opposition and the media hit out at Mr Gandhi after the daily *Indian Express* published the letter which is seen to have seriously dented the premier's image, political stock and credibility.

"There is no doubt that the prime minister has mishandled the matter," the conservative daily *The Hindu* said in an editorial entitled "A Grievous Breach of Propriety."

"Mr Rajiv Gandhi is primarily responsible for this unfortunate development," said *The Times of India*. [passage omitted]

The presidential palace has refused to comment but senior government sources said that an official inquiry had been ordered "to locate the leak (of the letter) and affix responsibility." [passage omitted]

As the storm grew in intensity, the premier met with senior Cabinet colleagues, party members, and constitutional experts to decide on a reply to the letter.

The publication of the letter has taken the running row between Mr Zail Singh, India's first Sikh head of state, and Mr Gandhi to a new pinnacle and brought their well-publicised rift firmly out into the open.

Mr Singh said in the letter that he had been kept in the dark about several key national issues and foreign policy matters. His charge contradicted Mr Gandhi's claim in Parliament on March 3 and 4 that he had met with Mr Singh on many occasions to inform him of "important developments."

"It is distressing that constitutional provisions regarding furnishing of information to the president have not been consistently followed," the letter said.

Mr Gandhi has recently come under fire for what many people see as his insensitive handling of the bureaucracy, including the announcement at a news conference of a decision to sack the foreign secretary. The latest controversy showed the prime minister had made a "mess of sensitive constitutional, political, and personal relations with the president," *The Hindu* said.

"The question is whether falsehood should dominate the country's politics," Nirmal Chatterji of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said. "If democracy is to survive we have to find a way out of this."

Members of the ruling Congress (I) Party were silent as the premier prepared his response to the letter.

The president has charged Mr Gandhi with violating specific provisions of the Constitution which require that the prime minister keep him informed about affirms of state.

"There can scarcely be graver charges," the *Indian Express* said in an analysis, pointing out that Mr Gandhi had stated clearly that there had been no deviation from constitutional provisions.

Media reports have spoken of a rift between Mr Singh and Mr Gandhi in the past year. They were known to be at odds on several issues but matters came to a head last month when the president declined to sign a controversial government bill to censor mail.

Differences surfaced soon after Mr Gandhi assumed power in late 1984.

Mr Gandhi was said to think that Mr Singh, Punjab's chief minister for six years from 1972, was at least partially responsible for the present crisis in the northern state where Sikh militants are fighting for a separate state.

He reportedly began departing from protocol by not briefing Mr Singh after tours abroad. The government also quietly refused to allow the president to go abroad till the end of last year, by when some 70 invitations had piled up.

Steps Taken To Prevent Bangladeshi Infiltration

BK130949 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The government is taking all possible steps to prevent infiltration from Bangladesh. The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, informed the Lok Sabha today that despite such measures the possibility of some Bangladeshi nationals infiltrating from across the border cannot be ruled out. The state governments have been given standing instruction to push back infiltrators as soon as they are detected. They have the powers to take necessary action under the Foreigners Act. In reply to a question, he said the center is constantly strengthening its arrangements on the border.

Cooperation Talks Held With Soviet Scientists

BK150440 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Indian and Soviet scientists had held talks in New Delhi yesterday on cooperation in science and technology. Collaboration in scientific and industrial research, biotechnology, medical research, space, and atomic energy figured in the talks. The Soviet delegation was led by the president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Academician G.I. Marchuk, while the Indian team was headed by Professor C.N.R. Rao, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the prime minister.

Three Killed in Andhra Pradesh Poll 'Clashes'

BK141611 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpt] In Andhra Pradesh, three persons were killed in poll clashes in today's elections of mandal and zila parishad [village and district] council chairmen. Reports of bomb throwing and snatching of ballot boxes were received from several places. Polling was suspended at those centers. In Cuddapah District one person died at Rangsaipuram in (Yaraguntla) Mandal when a bomb was thrown at a police party. One constable was injured. In (Raichotibethla) Mandal one person died due to stabbing. In

Kurnool District, police opened fire at two place to disperse the mob which snatched away ballot boxes. Some boxes were burned. In another clash between two groups at (Tabol) village in Nalgonda District one person was killed and another injured. [passage omitted on poll statistics].

Naxalite Plot To Disrupt W. Bengal Poll Unearthed

BK141123 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
5 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Calcutta, March 4 (PTI) — A Naxalite plot to disrupt th forthcoming elections to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly has been unearthed by the Criminal Investigation Department [CID] here following the recent arrest of a top Naxalite leader at Santipur in Nadia District.

Mr Kamal Mazumdar, deputy inspector-general of police, CID, told pressmen that Naxalites had planned to kill police personnel, capture booths, and indulge in violence to disrupt the polling.

Some 10 top Naxalites, including Dr Amit Ranjan Bose of the second Central Committee of the pro-Lin Piao faction of the CPI (ML), were arrested from Nadia and Calcutta.

The brain behind all this, Sunil (alias Arjun), who is stated to be the secretary, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal units of the second Central Committee, has been absconding since 1979, Mr Mazumdar added.

Mr Mazumbdar said two printing presses, where the banned party organ *Deshabrati [Patriot]* used to be printed clandestinely, had been unearthed following interrogation of the arrested Naxalites.

The paper and other documents seized during the raids revealed the plot to disrupt the poll, although some Naxalites were contesting the election.

Bomb Blast Causes Train Accident; 17 Killed

BK150857 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Seventeen bodies have so far been recovered from the wreckage of the Trichy-bound 177 Rock Fort Express. The engine and eight bogies of the train plunged into the dry bed of the Maruthaiyar River between Ariyalur and Chinnkudy in Tamil Nadu early this morning following a bomb blast on the bridge which the train was crossing. The death toll is expected to be much higher. Sixty-four of the injured have so far been admitted to nearby hospitals. Relief and rescue operations are on. They are being supervised by the Southern Railway general manager, Mr K.V. Balakrishnan, who was traveling on the train. He told the correspondent, V.C. Rukmani, that this is a clear-cut case of sabotage. Some bomb wires and explosive materials have been found near the spot. Our correspondent reports from the accident site that a large section of the 600-foot bridge is completely twisted and a number of coaches have been smashed beyond recognition. Nine bogies of the train which remained intact have been towed to Ariyalur station. A relief train has been rushed to the site. Traffic on the Madras-Tiruchirapalli meter gauge section has been disrupted. The railways have announced an ex-gratia payment of 5,000 rupees to the next of kin of those killed and 1,000 to 2,000 rupees for the injured. The minister of state for home affairs, Mr Chidambaram, also visited the accident site.

'Vital Clues' Obtained on Sabotage

BK160355 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Vital clues have been obtained about sabotage to the Trichy bound Rock Fort express which derailed yesterday morning. According to the Tamil Nadu director general of police, Mr K. Ravindran, some arrests are expected to be made in a day or two. A special team has been constituted to handle the investigation. Steps have been taken to patrol sensitive sections of the railway track in the state. According to UNI, police have seized five handwritten posters in Tamil demanding support for the Sri Lankan Tamils. The posters are reported to have been found pasted on the pillars of the bridge. Railway authorities said during the past few months a number of cases of attempted sabotage, particularly in the Madurai-Tiruchirapalli section of the southern railway have been detected.

Meanwhile, relief and rescue operations are in full swing at the accident site. As already reported 22 people were killed and 138 injured, 54 of them seriously. However, unofficial reports have put the death toll much higher. The minister of state for railways, Mr Madhav Rao Scindia, is arriving at the accident site this morning to supervise the rescue operations.

The vice president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has expressed his profound grief over the accident and offered his condolences to the next of kin of the dead. In his message to the Tamil Nadu governor, Mr S.S. Khurana, he said it is shocking to know that the disaster due to sabotage has killed innocent persons. No word can suffice to condemn this diabolic attack. The DMK president, Mr M. Karunanidhi, has also expressed shock over the accident.

Inquiry Ordered; Death Toll Rises

BK160914 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] An inquiry has been ordered into the derailment of the Rock Fort express in Tamil Nadu yesterday. It will be conducted by the commissioner for railway safety, Mr K. Suryanarayana. The death toll in the accident has risen to 24 and the injured to 139, of this 45 are seriously wounded. Search for more victims is still continuing. It is now feared that the death toll may go up further. Ex-gracia payment of 170,000 rupees has been dispersed among the families of the victims and the injured.

The minister of state for railways, Mr Madhav Rao Scindia, visited the accident site this morning along with several senior officials. He admitted that the accident seems to be a clear case of sabotage. He said he will make a detailed statement in the Rajya Sabha tomorrow on the accident. The police are investi-

gating the case and patrolling of the railway tracks at sensitive areas is being strengthened.

Tamil Leader Denies Involvement

BK161148 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Madras, India, March 16 (AFP) — The security forces searched a Sri Lankan Tamil separatists' camp in southern India Monday, a day after bombers suspected to be Sri Lankan Tamils derailed a train, reportedly killing 60 people.

The official death toll, 32 on Sunday, was revised to 26 on Monday, but witnesses and the local news media reported at least 60 deaths, saying villagers had carried away the bodies of several people who had allegedly been smuggling illicit liquor on the train.

Another 200 were injured when the locomotive and eight carriages of the Madras-Tiruchirapalli express plunged into a river after a powerful bomb ripped up nearly 150 metres of track over a bridge some 280 kilometres from this southern Indian city, officials said.

Policemen Monday surrounded and began searching a Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO) camp near the bridge for "incriminating materials" after tracker dogs led detectives to a village frequented by Sri Lankan Tamils, Inspector-General of Police Rajashekaran Nair said.

The TELO is one of the five major Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla groups campaigning for an independent Tamil state called Tamil Eelam in their country.

TELO leader Selvam denied his group was involved, saying: "We are guests of India and we cannot even dream of doing such a thing."

About 1,200 people were on the train and two of the carriages badly smashed after plunging into the river were packed, witnesses said.

The director-general of police in this southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, K. Ravindran, said the police had definite clues to who was behind the blast, but that it would be premature to accuse any particular Sri Lankan Tamil separatist group.

Police dogs picked up a scent at the site of the crash and led detectives to Ramalinganar village, five kilometres away, where residents said strangers had been seen in the area for nearly a week, Mr Nair said. "The strangers' accent was like that of Jaffna Tamils and they were also trying to sell imported electronic goods," he said. Jaffna is in northern Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan Tamil separatists hve often been accused of smuggling arms to Sri Lanka and illegally bringing drugs and electronic goods into Tamil Nadu.

Officials said pamphlets backing the Sri Lankan Tamil separatist campaign had been found near the damaged track. Our pamphlet said: "If India can recognize Namibia and Palestine and if she can sever ties with South Africa, why is she fighting shy of giving recognitions to Tamil Eelam?" Another called for an end to "persecution" of Sri Lankan Tamil separatists in India.

The state government has announced that special teams have been formed to investigate the derailment, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported. They will go into all aspects and investigate the possible involvement of any Sri Lankan Tamil separatist group, the news agency quoted Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary A. Padmanaban as having said.

Sunday's was not the first major act of sabotage blamed on Sri Lankan Tamil separatists in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Eelam Army, a fringe separatist group led by Panagoda Maheshwaran, was accused of causing an explosion at Madras airport three years ago in which 36 people were killed. But the case against the group was dropped and Mr Maheshwaran freed.

There are an estimated 3,500 Sri Lankan Tamil separatists in Tamil Nadu. Most belong to five major groups. Their camps are spread all over the state, including the district where Sunday's crash occurred.The guerrilals possess a wide variety of arms, including assault rifles, anti-aircraft missiles, mortars, and machine guns. Many such weapons were seized during a police crackdown in November.

Security Checked; 2 Ministers Dropped

BK161311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, today ordered tighter security measures at all important state and central government offices following yesterday's train accident near Ariyalur suspected to have been caused by a sabotage. Mr Ramachandran reviewed the overall law and order situation with his Cabinet colleagues and top civil and police officials in Madras today.

Later, the chief secretary, Mr Padmanavan, told newsmen that security has been tightened at all post offices, telephone exchanges, railway stations, and other vital installations. All the district collectors and superintendents of police in the state have also been directed to check up the stock with the traders dealing with explosive materials. The southern railway has been advised to run trolleys in some important and sensitive areas before they allow passenger trains.

UNI *[United News of India]*, quoting police sources, said that vital clues have been obtained indicating involvement of two or three people in the sabotage. The police swooped on a camp of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization near (Kolarang) bridge this morning and interrogated about 75 people there. [passage omitted]

In Tamil Nadu two ministers have been dropped from the state cabinet. They are the labor and local administration minister, Mr K.A. Krishna Swamy, and the minister for rural industry, Mr Anur Jagadishan. A Raj Bhawan [governor's house] communique in Madras says the governor, Mr S.L. Khurana, has relieved the two ministers on the advice of the chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, with immediate effect. The communique

did not give any reason. Agency reports say the food minister, Mr S. Ramachandran, will look after labor and local administration and the transport minister, Mr Muthuswamy, rural industry.

Punjab Legislator Killed by 'Terrorists' 15 Mar
BK151649 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] In Punjab, Mr Amarjit Singh, a ruling Akali Dal legislator, was shot dead by two scooter-borne terrorists near Ghanewal village in Ludhiana District this afternoon. The victim was on his way to the village in his car when he was attacked. He was 51. Mr Amarjit Singh represented Samrala constituency of Ludhiana District in the state assembly.

The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has condemned the killing. In a condolence message he said Mr Amarjit Singh has fallen victim to the sustained campaign of bitterness and hatred let loose by certain forces in the state.

Meanwhile, the Shiromani Akali Dal, Peruman Group, and the Bharat Sadhu Samaj [Indian Hermit society] have appealed to the misguided youths in Punjab to lay down their arms and join the national mainstream. Both the organizations also jointly appealed to the head priests to issue hukumnamas [edicts] against those who kill innocent people.

1 'Terrorist' Killed in Encounter in Jullundur
BK140309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] In Punjab, one terrorist was killed and four others injured in separate incidents of terrorist activity since yesterday evening. One terrorist was killed and two others arrested by police party after an encounter in a village near (Kinnor) in Jullundur District.

Junejo on Dialogue With Opposition, Visit to UK
BK151633 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister is to visit Britain from the 5th of next month. He will also visit Belgium. Talking to newsmen on arrival in Karachi this afternoon, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo spoke of the elected government's program to forge closer links with the people. His visit to Burewala was part of this program. He will be undertaking regular tours of the interior of all the provinces to acquaint himself with the problems of the people.

Replying to a question about a dialogue with the opposition parties, the prime minister said his party has kept the doors of negotiations open for all. He had time and again called upon political parties to put their programs before the people and prepare themselves for the next general elections. As far as national issues are concerned, he saw no need for any conference of political parties.

Soviet Envoy, Junejo Review Bilateral Talks' Progress
BK131714 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi this evening. They reviewed progress of bilateral talks between the two countries. They expressed satisfaction at the Geneva talks in connection with a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar was also present on the occasion.

OBSERVER Cited on 2d Atomic Plant in Islamabad
BK160319 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] According to details now available about yesterday's report in the British newspaper, *The Observer*, Pakistan has two atomic plants which can produce weapons-grade uranium. Besides the one at Kahuta, there is a second one reported to be in Islamabad. The report quoted a leading scientist of Belgium, Dr Brabers, who was the Pakistani nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadir Khan's teacher. Dr Khan is reported to have told Dr Brabers that Pakistan has enough material for an atom bomb and the job can be done in a month if the government decides to go ahead.

Chiefs of Staff Chairman, Vice Army Chief Appointed
BK151615 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Akhtar Abdur Rahman Khan has been promoted to the rank of general and then appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. Lieutenant General Mirza Aslam Beg has also been promoted to the rank of general and appointed vice chief of Army Staff. According to a Defense Ministry press note issued in Rawalpindi today, Lt. Gen. Akhtar Abdur Rahman Khan will replace General Rahimuddin Khan, and Lt. Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg will succeed General Khalid Mahmud Arif who are retiring on completion of their normal tenure of office. The newly appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the vice chief of Army Staff will take charge of their duties on 29 March. [passage omitted on biographies of the two newly appointed officers]

AFP--Report of 'Strong' Mosad Network 'Incorrect'
BK130640 Hong Kong AFP in English
0508 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Islamabad, March 12 (AFP) — Authorities here Wednesday denied as "incorrect" a local press report that Israeli Mosad had a "strong network" in Pakistan.

"The Mosad did not exist in Pakistan", the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said in a statement contradicting newspapers reports that four Arab gunmen during interrogation revealed here that they seized a Pan Am jetliner on September 5 last year to eliminate Israeli intelligence agents who were supposed to be on board the hijacked American aircraft.

According to the press, the terrorists, who opened fire in panic when security forces stormed the aircraft at Karachi Airport killing 22 people, had received a message from Abu Nidal's group's headquarters that some Mosad members had boarded the aircraft for Frankfurt. The gunmen allegedly told the interrogators that the Abu Nidal's group had reports of the existence in this country of a "strong Mosad network working against the interest of Pakistan and the Moslem world."

The gunmen claimed that they seized passports of all their hostages to find out the Israeli agents but failed to identify.

The FIA sources said the newspapers reports were "absolutely baseless." "The Mosad did not exist in Pakistan and hence the question of its working agianst the interest of Pakistan and the Moslem world did not arise".

Buildings Damaged in Chaman Bomb Blasts 12 Mar
BK140236 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Two bombs exploded in Chaman on Thursday [12 March]. Baluchistan police inspector general Qamar Alam told the *Associated Press of Pakistan* yesterday evening that there was no loss of life, but some buildings were damaged in the explosions.

Police Arrest 4 Saboteurs
BK131545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 13 GMT 87

[Text] Baluchistan police have traced a group of saboteurs responsible for bomb explosions in Quetta and other parts of the

province. Four saboteurs have been arrested and over 30 kgs of explosives recovered from them. The Baluchistan chief minister, Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir Khan, told a press conference in Quetta this evening that the police carried out raids in different parts of the city after acting on a tip-off.

One saboteur was presented before the newsmen. While answering their questions he admitted that he had carried out some explosions. The chief minister announced an award of 400,000 rupees for the police officers and policemen who took part in this operation.

2 Saboteurs Die in Explosion in Quetta 14 Mar
BK150238 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] According to the report of APP *[Associated Press of Pakistan]*, two persons were killed in a bomb explosion between Qila Abdullah and Sher-i-Bagh on Pakistan Railways' Quetta-Chaman section in Quetta yesterday. Due to the bomb explosion, the bodies of the two persons were badly mutilated and they could not be identified. It is understood that both these persons were saboteurs and they wanted to blast a small railway bridge about 4 miles away from Qila Abdullah. There was neither any damage to the bridge nor to the railway track and the train services on that section are continuing as usual.

SRI LANKA

Gandhi Envoy Conveys Note; Jaffna Fuel Ban Continues

BK141513 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Mr Dinesh Singh, member of Parliament, today met the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, in Colombo. Mr Singh flew into Colombo this morning carrying a message from the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for Mr Jayewardene. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

Meanwhile, the fuel embargo in the northern peninsula continued for the 74th day today with no visible signs of any measures to ease the situation. Our Colombo correspondent, Plaban Majumder, reports that considerable troop movements were reported yesterday toward north of the island. Four militants, two soldiers, and one civilian were killed in clashes between the forces and militants. The citizens committee for Tamil areas has appealed to both Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Jayewardene to help stop the killing of civilians.

The Janata Party has urged the government to act decisively and effectively to resolve the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr Yashwant Sinha, expressed concern over the blockade of Jaffna and the killing of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Militants Said Finding Military Offensive 'Tough'

BK141541 Hong Kong AFP in English
1509 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Madras, India, March 14 (AFP)—Sri Lankan troops have recaptured virtually all of the island's northern and eastern areas and Tamil militants are finding the latest military offensive tough, a guerrilla leader said here Saturday.

"We are unable to withstand the combined onslaught by land, air, and sea," C. Sunder of the Eelam Revolutionary Liberation Organisation (EROS) [acronym as received], one of the five militant groups fighting for a Tamil homeland, told reporters.

He said government troops were controlling all the Tamil-dominated areas of the country's north and east except Jaffna, the heartland of the nation's 2.5 million Tamil minority.

Mr Sunder, a member of EROS's General Command, said that although the militants were handicapped by the lack of an air defence system, "our morale is high."

"Our struggle will continue. There is no question of retracing our steps," he said, adding that his group was making concerted efforts to bring together the five major guerrilla groups who have often clashed with each other.

Colombo has claimed killing scores of Tamil militants, most of them from the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in recent bitter fighting in the north and east.

More than 5,000 people have died since 1983 in ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, where Tamils complain of discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

Mr Sunder, who said he had come from Jaffna recently, said the thrust of the current military offensive was to "break our concept of traditional homeland of Tamils in the north and east."

He said government troops were aiming to cut off land routes linking the two provinces and "allow fresh Sinhalese colonisation" in Tamil areas connecting Trincomalee and Batticaloa.

Mr Sunder described the situation in the island's east, where EROS is considered to have a strong support base, as "very grave" and claimed that a majority of the civilian population was "on the verge of starvation."

Sri Lankan officials have denied reports of starvation in Tamil areas.

Colombo has decided to review its fuel embargo on the northern Jaffna peninsula to relieve civilian hardship. The embargo was imposed when the LTTE said it would set up its own administration in January.

Mr Sunder said the differences among the guerrilla groups were over tax collections in their strongholds. "In the process, they have forgotten the fight against the Sri Lankan regime."

All militant groups have offices in Madras, southern India. Sri Lanka says the separatists regularly smuggle arms to Sri Lanka from south India.

Archbishop Writes Majlis Speaker on Hostages

LD161206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 16 Mar 87

["Text" of letter from the archbishop of Canterbury to Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani; date not given]

[Text] To the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. I have the honour and pleasure to send your excellency my greetings; to you who believe in God, the compassionate, the merciful.

We have heard your categorical statements concerning the sufferings of the Lebanese nation. I have also noted what you have said about Terry Waite. Terry Waite is a man with a strong faith who has great sympathy for the Iranian people. I, too, have many friends among your faithful. Terry Waite is a religious man who has a profound respect for Islam and Muslims. He is my personal envoy. His message is simply a humane one. He is totally independent of the British Government and of any political party. If you look at his activities in 1981 you will notice his independence, faith, and respect for Islam. This would, at times, enable him to have access to matters difficult to obtain through official and diplomatic channels.

I have noted what you said this week about Motevaselani, who was captured 4 years ago by the Phalange militiamen. If you like, I would be pleased to contact the Christian community in Beirut in order to trace him.

I know that the Lebanese people are suffering dreadfully from terrorism. Our two countries also suffer from this problem. I do hope that our faith will lead our societies in the best possible manner to peace and justice.

I wish to express my greetings with my religious sentiments to Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni. Yours sincerely,

[Signed] Archbishop of Canterbury

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Responds

LD161141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Letter by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani in response to the letter from the archbishop of Canterbury; date not given]

[Text] To the archbishop of Canterbury. Your letter concerning the kidnapping of Mr Terry Waite and Mr Motevaselani has been received. While expressing my profound regret for such bitter events that cause human suffering and while declaring my readiness to cooperate in countering these incidents, I wish to express my gratitude to your excellency for your readiness to mediate with the Lebanese Christians who kidnapped Messrs Motevaselani and Musavi and two of their associates on 4 July 1983 and who refuse to give us or their suffering families any information.

It grieves me that Western officials and media are in the habit of devoting their efforts to the sufferings inflicted on Westerners. They are not prepared to share in the sorrow and bereavements of the innocent peoples of the Third World. There is no doubt that the action being taken by your excellency in order to rescue four kidnapped innocent Iranians and [on behalf of] their bereft and waiting families — which has met with a Western boycott — is deemed a bright light in the dark and polluted Western imperialism's media climate. It gives credibility to the church and Christianity.

At any rate, I do welcome your excellency's proposal. We have called on our officials and friends in Lebanon and Syria to persist in tracing Terry Waite. We expect your excellency will notify us as soon as possible about the outcome of your efforts to trace the four kidnapped Iranian and Lebanese individuals and to restore them to their families. I pray that our joint efforts will continue to eliminate the sufferings of other victims.

[Signed] Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani

Khomeyni, Officials Mark Imam 'Ali Anniversary

LD141338 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — A group of Iranian officials were received by the leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, at Jamaran Mosque here Saturday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam 'Ali (A.S.), the first imam of the household of the Prophet Mohammad (SAW). [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic Revolution called on Iranian officials to further consolidate their unity and solidarity, noting "thanks to God, there are no differences among Iranian officials." The imam also advised officials to avoid any type of differences and discord.

Before Imam Khomeyni's speech, President 'Ali Khamene'i gave a brief lecture.

Khomeyni Speech Denies Power Struggle

LD141706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1047 GMT 14 Mar 87

[33-minute speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni at meeting with civilian and military officials at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran in Tehran on the birth anniversary of Imam 'Ali on 14 March — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I congratulate all the world's Muslims, our own great nation, and all our people through the history of this anniversary. [passage omitted describing aspects of Imam 'Ali's spiritual and human virtues]

As for matters that should be mentioned on such an occasion, I shall mention a few. At present we are faced with many difficulties, which you all know. We know that all the powers are opposing us. Today those powers have joined hands to smash Islam, which has gained power here, and to prevent Islam from raising its head. What is our task when everyone is opposed to us? All of them seek to destroy every one of us, wanting to take us back to the time when a foreign ambassador or his deputy

could turn the whole of Iran's situation upside down — this is the situation they want to take us back to. What is our task in such circumstances? What course has God determined for us? Should we again sit around opposing one another? Should we again fight one another? When I say "fight" I do not mean that such a fight is taking place. We should seek to prevent it from happening. I say that because I do not want the media tomorrow saying: He said there is a fight taking place in Iran.

One of the things they always try to latch on to is to say that there is a power struggle going on in Iran. They still do not understand Islam; they do not understand Iran. They do not understand those in charge in Iran. They imagine there is a faction on one side against another on the opposite side with everyone being at each other's throats, all seeking personal gains. This is because material considerations are used as a yardstick. When material considerations are the focus of attention this is true. If, God forbid, material considerations emerge among us, if we forget the Most Exalted, Almighty God, and if we seek worldly things in office, then this is true, discord will then inevitably arise. Those whose attention is focused on this world cannot avoid being in discord, for everyone wants to look after himself. Those who are without discord are those who ignore this world, those who focus attention on values. There will not be discord among such people.

If all the prophets came together in one place there would be no discord, not one word of discord. But put two village heads in one village and then there will be discord. If we had 2 or even 100 spiritual scholars, they would never have discord amongst themselves. But if we had a different sort of scholar seeking to make a profit by his scholarship, and if we had another one of the same ilk, then they would have discord. The same applies to the leaders of a country. If they work for the sake of God they will have no discord. [passage omitted elaborating further on discord]

The path to hell is a gradual one. One's worldly desires [have-ye nafsani] do not suddenly plunge one into hell, nor does the devil suddenly take one by the hand into hell. No, it is a gradual process.

After a while one discovers there are differences among the people. Is it not our duty to stem these differences? Is it not our religious duty, our duty for reason, our duty to our conscience not to allow differences to appear, God forbid, among various strata? This happens when worldly desires are kept under control. [as heard] There is no other way.

If there are worldly desires, differences will arise. No matter how scholarly one may be, worldly desires will also be found. Wordly desires are within all of us. They cannot be eliminated. But there are some who harness them and some who do not. I am referring to ordinary people, not those who work for the sake of God. We must (?always) be thoughtful that in this country, God forbid, discord should not gradually appear.

We must support each other. We must base everything on the fact that we control our worldly desires, control ourselves, and act in a friendly way toward each other. If there is something in the heart that cannot be controlled (?inwardly) then it must be controlled in action, because man has the power to do that.

Today, the approval of all strata is a duty for us all. We should support the Majlis. The Majlis should take sides with the nation. We should support the government and it should serve the nation.

We must comply with the forces as far as we can. They, too, should support you. There should not be one faction on one side and another on the other. Even though there is no such thing today, it is claimed that there is. If, God forbid, there should be a spark somewhere, it is exaggerated to such an extent as if everything has disappeared.

As you have observed, the media devotes cursory attention to what is good in Iran. They slander us and insist on doing so. There is a war going on. As you know there have been great victories. This is given the most cursory coverage. They barely mention it. First, they fail to cover the main point. Then they say one side has said this and the other has said something else, but there is no confirmation as yet. Their news agency representatives come over here — those who have grudges. They gather information and send it. They [the media] know that this is happening. They then say this or that is happening in Iran, citing someone who is opposed to Iran. The opposition has said this, so it must be right. This is because they are looking for something to exaggerate, so as to pit us one against another from within. Our reason, our religion, Islam, and everything dictate that we should be good to each other and support one another.

Our intelligence and our religion, our Islam and other matters oblige us, at a time when everybody is against us, to be friendly to each other. The Armed Forces must be on the side of the Guards Corps and the Guards Corps must support the Armed Forces. All organs must support each other, so that there is no desire to destroy the Armed Forces or the Guards Corps. Some may want to destroy the government and still others may try to destroy the legislature. We all must be together. It is our divine and religious duty, which rests on the shoulders of the nation.

Naturally, if we see, such a thing is taking place, God forbid, then our religious duty obliges us to prevent it with whatever means are at our disposal, even if it requires exposing or sacrificing one person or a group for the nation.

I humbly point out to you gentlemen, that you should take heed not to allow discord. Tomorrow may bring elections, when debates begin. Do not follow your desires and arrange things for your own sake.

Let us say something is about to happen in Iran; you must not try to take advantage of it for your own self-interest, for that would lead to discord. The saints and prophets, the ones who have managed to become detached from mundane events, do not behave this way. If you claim to be following the prophets and Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, consider the world as totally ephemeral. [passage omitted on more praise of Imam 'Ali]

Here is an analogy: There is a physician who is beyond mundane desires, but he realizes that if he fails to announce his medical knowledge, then people will become sick. Therefore, despite the fact that he has no wish to promote himself, he has to make it clear that he has medical qualifications, that he is a specialist.

There are two types of self-praise. One is employed to satisfy one's ego. The other is meant to guide. This emanates from divine breath. When Imam 'Ali swore that even if he was given the world he would not resort to any act of oppression, it was because he was obliged by God Almighty to make this declaration. This made clear his position and enabled people to follow him. Just like the physician, he has no wish to boast. Unlike individuals like us, who, for instance, if we happen to know a poem, try to boast about it, or if we happen to know of a certain teaching, we keep boasting about it, he is trying to guide people along an unalterable path. He makes the utterance despite the fact that it is difficult for him to make it.

God's messenger, peace be upon, despite the fact that it was difficult for him to introduce Imam 'Ali [as his successor] and point to the right path for the people because he knew this might create discord, was, nevertheless, inspired by God to announce it. He was told that if he failed to do so then he would have failed in his work. These events are mandatory.

When you see certain people praising themselves in a certain medium it is because they have been required by the supernatural to do so, so that the people would recognize the physician. Ordinary people either notice the appearances, which are the same everywhere, or they see him causing someone's death. He is assigned to make the people understand the reason for the death, how one should provide guidance to others, just like the physician I mentioned earlier.

If we manage to find such talent to make ourselves known — although we must not do this, for we have no such mission — it must be directed toward giving guidance to people. If you noticed that it is done for one's own [khod] sake, then you must remember that it is Satan's hands which are involved.

If you sometimes see that we oppose the president, or you disagree with him, you must know that the hands of Satan are at work and that your action is not for God. The same is true of the government. If we disapprove of the government, a government which serves, and serves so remarkably and enjoys trust, then you should know that the hands of Satan are in action and it is not for God.

If we intend to be critical of the Army, you must remember it is Satan who is involved; if we intend to be critical of the [Revolution Guards] Corps, you must realize it is Satan who is involved. Divine hands have no part in it. One would invariably comprehend this; it is comprehension which is necessary. The man responsible for a certain job might think that someone else might be in a better position to manage the task. Therefore, he must decide — something which must remain between himself and God — whether the other fellow should take over. If so, then he must remember that there exists some innate factor in him which emanates from a supernatural source. However, if he realizes that he is not content with the fact, then he must remember that there is some failing within him, that his ego has taken over.

Needless to say, we cannot absolutely control our desires; we lack the power. However, we do have the power not to persist. We lack the strength to purge our hearts of the open opposition we entertain against someone, but we do have the strength to avoid putting this into action.

Today, we have the religious duty — for it is a divine requirement — to act contrary to the negative feelings we entertain against someone. We must, in practice, in our utterances and our publicity, act contrary to our inner feelings. This is something we do have the power over. If we lack the strength to purge our hearts, it should be remembered that we do have the strength to control our action. Otherwise God will call us to account, not because we have such feelings in our hearts, but because we could avoid voicing them, and failed to do so.

Today, we are not dealing with personal matters, such as when an individual commits a sin against God and then pays for it; the man pays for his sin in accordance with his own personality and state. If, today, we continue to oppose each other we must bear in mind that the matter concerns a nation, Islamic nations, Islam; it is a matter which concerns divine values. This is totally different from the offence. However, if an individual opposes someone who is serving the people, it becomes a different story, for it is quite different from an offence committed by a man in (?his village). Needless to say, the former offence is far greater than the latter, something which would be difficult to imagine that God Almighty would forgive.

Today, we shoulder a great many duties; we shoulder difficult duties. Today, it is you against the rest of the world, apart from a small number. Naturally, there are many people among other nations who care about you, but there are only a handful of governments that do not oppose you; all the rest are against. Having said that, if we too try to oppose each other, then this would become an offence which would stay with us to the end of time; it would be considered an eternal offence as far as we are concerned. This would eternally disgrace us before God Almighty.

Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, restrained himself with regard to a great many matters which were very difficult ones in the interest of the public, in the interest of Islam. If we claim to be following him, then we must act accordingly. It we claim to be following him only half-heartedly, then again we must act accordingly.

Anyhow, what we must really keep in mind is that at the present time everybody around us is making efforts to destroy and crush us from within. They have not been able to do so abroad. All their plans have been blocked and destroyed. Now, this is an important plan which they want to carry out domestically; they also say things such as: Something happened at such a place and its outcome is not clear; who is fighting whom; such and such is doing this or that. These things have an impact, and if no attention is paid, and if one does not listen to Almighty God and does not beg Him to protect us against such evils, then one may fall into a trap.

Thanks be to God, God willing, we all are good to each other. I wish exalted God may approve of you and you may approve of each other. May the nation support the government and the government support the nation. May the Majlis and all others be

together so that, God willing, exalted God may grant them power and approve them and save the nation from the evil-doers.

Majlis Speaker Responds to Speech

LD151326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Excerpt] At today's open session of the Majlis, Hashemi-Rafsanjani made a speech to mark the blessed birth anniversary of the lord of the pious, holy 'Ali ibn Abitalib, peace be upon him.

He said: Among the blessings of such a holy day was the opportunity of seeing his excellency the imam and enjoying his beneficent comments bestowed on state officials and the Majlis deputies. As always, he has been watchful of the passage of the ship of the revolution like an enlightened physician and a vigilant and intelligent captain, guiding his children whenever necessary and beneficial. This time, vigilant and aware as ever, at a time when our disappointed enemies after all their past trickeries and plots, have begun to propagate discord — shown in the evil work they carry in their media — his excellency pointed out this danger to us and drew the attention of officials and the nation to it. Our people and our officials will most definitely bear this in mind and will benefit from these refreshing recommendations.

In conclusion, the Majlis speaker prayed for the health and longevity of the imam of the nation and expressed hope that under the banner of unity and solidarity the revolution may be taken to its lofty goals [passage omitted]

Musavi Responds to 'Inspirations'

LD151341 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] The Cabinet met today and discussed and exchanged views on important domestic and foreign issues. Afterward the minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps presented an annual report on the war to the government. Citing figures and statistics on casualties and damage inflicted on the aggressive Iraqi Army during the year 1365 [year ending 20 March 87], the successes of the Islamic combatants on western and southern fronts, he referred to the volume of operations carried out during the current year as four times larger than those of previous years. The minister also noted that the successful strategic operations have been unparalleled and that the changes which have taken place in the nature of warfare by the Islamic combatants have been miraculous.

The minister then cited the all-embracing cooperation given by government sectors and executive departments as an important factor in the recent victories achieved by the Islamic fighters.

In the same meeting the oil minister also explained the accomplishments made in the oil industry during the year 1365 and, alluding to the increased technical and scientific capabilities in the industry, expressed the hope that in the near future the industry's technical and specialist requirements would be reduced to a minimum.

The same report adds that the minister of economy and finance submitted his annual report on the country's economic condition to the country's economic strength in coping with the unforeseen difficulties.

Afterward, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, commenting on the statement made by the imam of the nation on the birth anniversary of Imam 'Ali, peace upon him, said: Utterances made by by the great leader of the revolution have always served as the greatest asset for the government to continue serving the people. Inspired by such guidelines, the Council of Ministers today enjoys the most fraternal feelings in continuing their attempts and endeavors. It is through receiving inspirations from such spiritual sources and through the existing fraternal cooperation that the government is able to cope with various problems.

Musavi added: We feel ashamed being faced with the assessments made by the imam of the nation of the government's activities. We do not consider our record worthy when we consider our debt to Islam and the revolution. In the meantime, we must stress that in achieving what the government has attained, the support, cooperation, and guidance provided by all prominent figures, institutions, the various strata of the people; as well as the president, the Majlis, the judiciary, the theologians, and, above all, by the people have had the central role.

The prime minister then added: It is by relying on such truthfulness and honesty that the government is able to claim it is capable of coping with all the problems created by the enemies of the revolution. He continued: The reason for repeated assertions by the imam of the nation in avoiding discord and refraining from promoting it emanates from the threat that, despite the despondency of the enemies in seeing a foreign invasion, they could harm the revolution by this means.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Delegation Departs

LD151421 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — The Soviet delegation headed by planning director-general of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Lev Isaakovich Mendelevich, left here for Moscow on Sunday, after a four-day visit.

Upon departure, Mendelevich told reporters that for Soviet statesmen, relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran have always been "close and independent." This, he said, was in line with the Soviet policy to maintain sincere ties with her neighbors.

Pointing to the agreements concluded during his visit, including joint researches, and exchange of visits by the two countries' researchers and historians, Mendelevich expressed satisfaction with the results of the trip.

The Soviet official further said that his country was in favor of a powerful and independent Iran capable of fulfilling its revolutionary goals. "We have [words indistinct] relations with the Islamic Republic as a big and important country in the region," he said.

Referring to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Moscow and his fruitful talks with the Soviet officials, Mendelevich said ministerial delegations from the USSR will visit Iran in a near future in an effort to further expand Tehran-Moscow relations.

Mendelevich also described the Islamic Revolution as one of the most important revolutions in the region which, he said, created great developments both in the Iranian society and in the region. "We believe the Islamic Revolution [words indistinct] he said.

The Soviet delegation arrived here Wednesday at the invitation of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The Soviet delegation held talks with a number of Iranian officials on matters of mutual interests.

Musavi: Tower Commission Report True 'In Some Parts'

LD161148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Musavi gave an interview to our correspondent and answered questions about the outcome of the Tower Commission.

Referring to the commission's report on the talks held by McFarlane and his entourage in Tehran, Musavi said: The report shows that the three U.S. Government hostages [as heard] and especially those involved in the present crisis connected with McFarlane's trip are still keeping some things secret. Also, of course, the report on the talks in Tehran gives a true account in certain parts, but in other parts it reads more like a novel, which is either a product of McFarlane's imagination, or has been formulated to reestablish America's lost reputation with the cooperation of the members of the Tower Commission.

He stressed: Fortunately, we hold all the documents relating to McFarlane's trip. As in the past, if it is necessary they could be published.

Referring to the said report's account of the talks held between the U.S. delegation and the Iranian prime minister's deputy and advisor, he said: These claims have been made to lessen the disgrace of the U.S. delegation who were not able to hold talks with any official in Iran. It is hard for the Yankees [preceding word in English] to admit that throughout their stay in Iran they were pumped for information by our agents.

He stressed: Only one of our agents, who is assigned to arms purchasing by the prime minister's office, was active in connection with this trip.

He added: We hope that before McFarlane tries to commit suicide again, or a malignant tumor is discovered inside his head as in the case of the former CIA boss, he announces the name of the prime minister's deputy or advisor with whom he held talks.

Replying to another question about reports published in the Western media that Iran has installed missiles with a range of 80 km in the Strait of Hormuz, the prime minister said: The security of the Persian Gulf only concerns the countries in the region and is no business of foreigners.

USSR Reportedly in Favor of 'Powerful' Tehran

LD151709 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] During a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani yesterday, the director general of planning for the USSR Foreign Ministry announced that the USSR condemns the bombing of cities and is in favor of a powerful Iran. He also stressed that the USSR is determined to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan.

Stressing the need for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, Larijani said: The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the establishment there of a popular Muslim government that is opposed to the presence in the region of the United States and other global powers.

IRNA Responds to U.S. 'Ballyhoo' on Computers

LD131711 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — An official of the *Islamic Republic News Agency* said here Friday that the U.S. propaganda ballyhoo on the sale of computers to IRNA was the result of "difference of interest of the power factions in the U.S." The official categorically denied that there was any deal between IRNA and American firms.

The official said IRNA had concluded an agreement for purchase of its needed computers with European firms since long time ago. He said small P.D.P. digital computers which have been on the market for the past several years, are abundantly available in Europe and that is why "we have opted for this type."

Among other reasons IRNA has opted for this brand of computers, he said, was that their spare parts were abundant here and their maintenance easier, compared with other computers.

With regards to the fact that this computer is not of the very much advanced type and that it is already being used in Iran for years, the claim that it might be used for military purposes, is ridiculous and irrelevant, the official stated.

Chief Justice Says U.S., USSR Should Leave Region

LD151539 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — If the Iraqi regime is left unpunished and the region is not purged of that regime, it will repeat its aggression, said Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili here Sunday.

Speaking to a group of visiting members of the Construction Jihad here, the chief justice said both the U.S. and the Soviet Union should leave the region and that regional Muslim people should manage their own affairs.

"If the Iraqi-imposed war lasts many years we will firmly stand to defend our own goals...the arrogant world is unable to defeat this Muslim revolutionary (Iranian) nation which willingly embraces martyrdom," Ardabili said.

Shortly after the Iraqi regime launched its aggression on Iran the Islamic ummah (nation) inspired by Islam and the Holy Koran and led by Imam Khomeyni forced the U.S., the Soviet Union, Europe, and regional reactionaries to recognize Islam and Islamic Iran as a power in the world, he said.

Report on Islamic Revolution Committees Submitted

LD151752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] During today's Supreme Judicial Council session, Serajoddin Musavi, head of the Islamic revolution committees, submitted a report on the steps taken towards improving and reaffirming the competence and setting the legal duties of the Islamic revolution committees and also the divisions in Tehran and the activities in the fight against forbidden deeds and narcotics, the arrest of Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq], and matters relating to contraband and smugglers. The council thanked the brothers in the committees for their efforts.

During the session the chief of the judicial police of the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted a report on the performance of the various judicial police units in Tehran and the provinces and the effects of the implementation of the flogging laws and the receipt of fines. The council praised them for their achievements.

Ayatollah Montazeri Addresses Martyr Families in Qom

LD151634 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri received some families of martyrs from the schools run by him, the families of martyrs from Qom Theological District, a number of warriors from the fronts, and some official and other ordinary people of Qom. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: In his last will to Imam Husayn, Imam 'Ali says: My son, if we look at our own shortcomings, we then disregard the shortcomings of others. Regrettably, everyday, we keep questioning each other's reputation and, in the name of exposing them, we keep bringing others into disrepute, while we must apply ourselves in promoting scientific advancement, in improving things, and serving others in universities, seminaries and elsewhere. Consequently, we denigrate ourselves through being critical, resorting to gossip, unfounded accusations, and sarcastic remarks. How I hope we are able to sit down and evaluate what we have done in 1 single day to realize what sins we do commit! [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, continuing his remarks, said: If a man resorted to fabricating evidence and tried to create difficulties for others, then he himself would be caught in being subjected to false evidence and difficulties employed by others. Similarly, if a man digs a well to trap his brother, again, he himself would end up falling in it. There were a great many people who did give false testimony, who resorted to exposing and falsifying evidence for others; who got involved in spreading rumors and creating a false climate. These people ended up in falling into the same well they dug and thus received their punishment in this world. [passage omitted]

Official Describes Policy on Shelter Construction

NC160853 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The sum of 40 billion rials has been set aside for loans to persons whose workplaces or homes have been destroyed by the Iraqi regime's bombing of cities. The prime minister's executive deputy, announcing this, said: This sum has been sanctioned at the suggestion of the Headquarters for the Support and Coordination of the Executive Affairs of Bombed Areas, with the approval of the Credit and Finance Council, and will be given to qualified applicants in accordance with the country's banking system. He added: A sum of 20 billion rials will be made available for loans for the construction of special shelters. These loans will be given to applicants in accordance with the principles of the Islamic banking system.

The prime minister's executive deputy stressed that it is necessary to continue constructing shelters in the country's cities and added: The government will pursue the implementation of its plan in this regard until the Iraqi regime's aggression against Iran has been completely eliminated. With the cooperation of our selfless nation, we shall frustrate the enemy in his use of this tactic. He said: We are drawing up a plan for the construction of shelters and places of refuge. On the basis of this plan, the construction of cities will be modified to include public shelters with certain other features, such as commercial and administrative facilities and services.

Communiques Issued on Combat Operations

No 2,775

LD141639 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Iraqi troops sustained substantial losses in men and equipment throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian combatants on Friday, said a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces here Saturday. Communique Number 2,775 said that 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed and at least eight enemy bunkers destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Friday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces. Heavy Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in Qal'at Dizah and Gerdmand [name as received] heights in the northwestern fronts Friday inflicted considerable casualties and losses on Iraqi forces. Enemy troops were also prevented from setting up defence lines.

In the southern fronts Friday, Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions, killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying five observation posts and several gun emplacements of theirs. Enemy fire was also silenced.

Iraqi troops incurred substantial men and equipment losses in Islam and Bakhtaran border fronts in exchange of artillery fire with Iranian Muslim combatants Friday.

Convoys of Iranian patrols successfully carried out their missions aimed at ambushing Iraqi troops and destroying enemy observation posts in the "Karbala'-7" operational theater in Hajj 'Umran, northeastern fronts, early Friday.

Movement of an Iraqi armoured column was checked on Zurbatiyah-Badrah axis, northwestern fronts, Friday.

Iran's Navy gun boats intercepted and inspected one cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed it to continue voyage after finding no suspicious cargo on board, the communique concluded.

No 2,776

LD151653 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — Eight foreign cargo ships and tankers were intercepted by the Iranian Navy in Hormuz Strait Saturday, but no suspicious cargo was found on board them, according to Communique Number 2,776 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Sunday.

The communique said that Iranian Muslim combatants consolidated their defence positions and silenced Iraqi artillery fire in northwestern fronts, destroying several Iraqi bases and killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

An Iraqi patrol unit attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in Panjwin operational region early Saturday, but was suppressed and forced to flee by ambush commandoes of the Muslim forces in the region, the communique said.

Parts of Iraqi defence positions and several watch posts were destroyed during exchange of artillery fire in Bakhtaran and Ilam operational regions in which some Iraqi soldiers were killed. Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were also checked in Qasr-e Shirin operational region, according to the communique.

Artillery fire on the Muslim combatants on Iraqi positions and on enemy infantry and armoured units in southern fronts inflicted considerable casualties and losses on the enemy.

In Pich-e Angizeh and Yabis operational regions, said the communique, Iranian forces halted Iraqi relocation activities, bringing their infantry and armoured units under continued artillery fire. Most of the enemy watch posts in Sharhani and Bejliyeh were under Iranian fire, it added.

An undetermined number of Iraqi troops were killed when artillery fire on the Iranina Gendarmerie forces set afire two Iraqi trucks and at least 10 gun emplacements in parts of the western and southern fronts, the communique concluded.

IRGC Thwarts Iraqi Landing Near Oil Jetty

LD160827 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 16, IRNA — Muslim combatants frustrated several Iraqi attempts to land troops around Al-Bakr jetty last night. The frigates carrying the Iraqi marines were forced to flee without executing their mission by the coastal artillery fire of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

IRGC Damages Enemy Boats in Khawr 'Abdallah

LD141653 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Ahvaz, March 14, IRNA — The effective coastal artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) inflicted damage on the enemy boats in Khawr 'Abdallah waters early Saturday.

According to the report, a group of marines of Iraqi Seventh Division aboard several boats tried to reach Muslim combatants' positions around Khawr 'Abdallah, but were forced to flee by the coastal fire of IRGC.

IRGC Reports Iraqi Kurds Destroy Base in Irbil

LD160922 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 16, IRNA — Shaykh al-Nasir base in Iraqi province of Irbil was destroyed by the Peshmergas of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in an ambush attack on the base on March 11.

Ramadan Headquarters center for irregular warfare of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps said that Kurdish Peshmergas in classic guerrilla fashion attacked the base killing all its personnel, [words indistinct], and capturing one Iraqi soldier. The Peshmergas returned safely to their bases with the seized enemy ammunition and light weapons.